

S-E-C-R-E-T
Security Information
IAC-M-73
5 June 1952

The discussion centered around the question of the likelihood of of the success of a Soviet blockade in causing the West to withdraw from Berlin. Recognizing the important role of West Berlin morale in the face of the annoyances and the hardships which the population would be required to suffer in a blockade, it was generally believed that the critical factor lay in the degree of determination of the U. S. and its Allies to stay in Berlin. The majority opinion was that in view of the existing estimate that the Soviets are not likely deliberately to initiate general war through mid-1953 and in the belief that the initial success of Western re-armament has probably not changed the Soviet strategy in this regard, U.S. actions in maintaining access to and viability of West Berlin, even if resisted by East German ~~military forces~~ or Soviet forces, could probably be successful without bringing about a general war. It was felt, however, that if a blockade were continued indefinitely, the Western position could probably be made untenable.

1952

10 June 1972

FILE

This is Reber's proposed
minute. It will not
be used in view of
the NE stand that
action taken is
all that need
be recorded.

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